

See Me by Tanisha Holmes

Camera cut to black girl in Hamilton, OH.
Small town, blue eyes, blonde hair.
Looking back asking me, "What are you doing here?"
Zoom the lens a notch in, a little more till you see me.
Brown skin, curly hair, pondering the world.
Trying to find me in the west side, white sea.

Tell me I'm doin alright, I'm doin alright, I'm doin alright.

Cut to Ms. W's classroom, switch, zoom.
Tanisha has a thong in her desk.
Tanisha left her g-string behind.
Which way do I phrase it so you get the message?
How shall I spit it so you receive it.
Redness flushed my brown skin.
Cut to, camera cracks: fire takes over and consumes.
Rage reeked up from within. .

Tell me I'm doin alright, I'm doin alright, I'm doin alright.

Fifth grade played telephone that cold Ohio day.
Although it was spring my face showed winter.
Runny nose, eyes streaming like a faucet left on.
The teacher fixed the lens on me, see it?
Zoom to the root of anger,
Fear flushes through like water consuming the pool.

Tell me I'm doin alright, I'm doin alright, I'm doin alright.

Koby's Poem

Koby's target used a shield like we
On a fortnite battlefield. He supposed to be real
But threw Baby J as a sacrifice. Colder than cool
Canada. We
Let Koby get the book thrown at em. Alone, abandoned, left.

Koby's pain clouded him. No therapy in school.
His heart melted, torn, shredded to pieces, particles. We
Tried to save him, police lurking,
Eyes meeting his with demise, we arrived on cp time, late.

The pureness of his heart, striked
Consumed by the city's darkness and desolude. "Straight
Lying" We screamed as the police mentioned rehabilitation. We
Knew it all too well. Singing,
Praying for his redemption was a waste of breath. Sin
Is what they labeled him as they read the booking. We
Cry and mourn as he send pictures of him looking like winter, thin.

His Mamma stuck in the same spot drinking gin.
The community is torn and we
Don't sing, dance or play jazz.
Our summers are spent looking for safety. June
Was the month KG was taken, 2016, and we
Still fighting, dying.

Londale, Key, Shawn, Baby J, KG. All. Gone too soon.